



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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President's Report

Jim Crumpacker

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World Stamp Expo 2000 at Anaheim: right facility, wrong location, wrong time. Lovely, plush carpeting and the vast expanse of the convention area deadened sound to the point that no more than a normal conversational tone was ever needed in the hall. There were even a few chairs available at dealers' booths, although the dealers had to pay extra for them. The First Day Cover ceremonies were well attended, in part by autograph hunters pursuing instant riches from the astronauts and other celebrities present. Many of those same First Day visitors seem never to have reached the bourse floor.

The mainstream philatelic press tended to blame the USPS, being critical about the time of year (school was out), the Anaheim location, and a perceived lack of pre-show publicity. Still, one must remember the Golden Rule of show promotion: Them that have the gold make the rules. USPS has the gold. Besides, we need a stamp issued in 2004 by the USPS to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Canal Zone Postal Service. Send those suggestive letters to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee.

On the other hand, London's Stamp Show 2000, in May, had an attendance of about 55,000, satisfactory although not the number for which the organizers were looking. The concrete floor and lack of chairs in the bourse area made for cacophonous verbal communication and aching feet; I found more and better Canal Zone material at the small competing show a mile down the road within the Chelsea Football grounds; chairs also.

The list of Contributing and Sustaining members appears in this issue. Our compliments to those who make that extra monetary donation. Work continues apace on the Canal Zone First Day Covers opus and on the USPS update of Canal Zone Postal Stationery. Your financial support helps.

Our thanks to Jerry Craig, his family, and the supportive corps of CZSG members who have made the recently completed 2000 CZSG Mail Sale a success. Their efforts warrant our highest regard.

J4b / J11A

By Richard Spielberg

In a previous article¹, evidence was presented that the 1c Panama Postage Due stamp with a blue type V Canal Zone overprint reading up (and down) were genuine (based on the finding of specimen sheets in the American Bank Note Company archives). These stamps were previously listed by Scott as two varieties of CZ J4: J4b and J4a; CZSG numbers are J11A and J11Aa respectively. The overprint reading up stamp was previously known only used, the overprint reading down stamp only unused. Prior to being delisted in 1973 because experts believed they were bogus, the Scott catalog also listed J4b as unused; it was not priced but marked with a dash similar to the prices for unused copies of Scott Nos. CO8-12 and O3.

An important discovery was recently made in an APS circuit book. It was sold as an unused J4 but had the Type V overprint reading up. The stamp is unused with full original gum and a hinge remnant. It was submitted to the American Philatelic Expertizing Service and received certificate number 125108 that it was a genuine unused J4b. The stamp is shown in the figure at column to right.

The previous article speculated on why all of the copies of J4a were unused while all of the known copies of J4b were used. The unused examples, with overprint reading down - an inverted overprint - probably left the post office "under the counter" - directly to collectors, as did many other errors of the time. The used copies were used to pay postage (or payments) due; the known used sheets suggesting payment for bulk mailings or receipts. Collectors at the time did not recognize the different types of the overprints. The sale of unused postage due stamps being illegal, it is not unexpected, that until the current finding, all copies of J4b were used. The unused copy may have been obtained as a favor - under the



Scott J4b, unused, OG

counter- as were most of the unused copies of J4. One can imagine a collector who had missed getting his example early and purchased it at a later date. This would be similar to the story of Scott No. 47, which is rare mint, but much easier to find used. It may also have been sold later as a remainder similar to the sale of the mint examples of the officials. Another possible explanation is that it was at one time part of a canceled multiple but this particular stamp did not receive a cancellation.

The issue needs to be re-listed by Scott. The SPECIMEN marginal marking date this stamp to September 21, 1922, indicating it was prepared after the 1919 J10-11 set. A major listing number of J11A for the overprint reading up (priced only used but noted as unused) and J11Aa (overprint reading down) are again suggested.

Reference:

1. Gary B. Weiss, David J. Leeds and Jim W. Crumpacker, "A New Postage Due Stamp - Former J4b is Real," *CZP* 123:13-4.

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Meeting Notice

A CZSG meeting will be held during
SESCAL, Saturday noon, October 7,
2000 at Wyndham Los Angeles Airport
Hotel. A COPAPHIL meeting will follow.

The Canal Zone Philatelist

A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42

Web Page:

<http://home.att.net/~a.bentz/Czsg.htm>

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One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Book Review

A Guide to the Birds of Panama with Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras, second edition, by Robert S. Ridgely and John A. Gwynne, Jr. (Princeton University Press, 1989), ISBN 0-691-02512-6, paperbound, 534 pages plus 48 color plates, \$35.00.

This authoritative field guide covers over 1000 species. There is a physical description of each species. Similar species are discussed for comparison and to reduce the chance of misidentification in the field. The birds' favored habitat such as perches are given, along with where and when they are in the region. Their abundance is indicated. The species' ranges and migratory habits are described. The final chapter "Finding Birds in Panama" contains specific advice on birding. This is a thorough and usable book at a relatively low price.

David L. Farnsworth

Collect Canal Zone*

By Gilbert N. Plass

Canal Zone stamps were first issued in June 1904 shortly after the United States began administering the affairs of the Zone. Only 267 stamps were issued in the 75 years until the Canal Zone Postal Service ceased operations in 1979. This is an average of less than 4 stamps per year. Does any reader know of a modern issuing entity with such a conservative new issue policy?

This conservative new issue policy is just one of many reasons that attract philatelists to Canal Zone stamps. Other important reasons include: that these stamps were issued by a United States Agency; were sold in United States currency; have great historic interest; embrace various periods ranging from handstamps to modern multicolored engraved stamps; exist in very small quantities in many cases; have a considerable investment potential; include many errors and varieties all legitimately produced. Let us consider these points more fully.

Canal Zone stamps were issued by an independent Government Agency of the United States and thus belong in every United States collection. All of the stamps issued since July 1904 have been sold for United States currency. Collectors are sometimes confused about this since the Panama overprinted issues Scott Nos. 9 - 69 have the denomination in the balboas and centesimos of Panama. However, this currency was equivalent on a one to one basis with United States dollars and cents. The Canal Zone post office always considered a basic stamp marked two centesimos as a two cent stamp. The first issue of 1904 is the only exception. The denomination is expressed in Panamanian silver on this issue i.e. the 10 centavo stamp sold for 5¢ U. S.

Canal Zone stamps have genuine historic interest and significance. Many of them show actual scenes of the building of the canal and the men connected with this work. The earlier Panama stamps used for overprinting up to 1924 show many important men in the history of that country together with pictorial scenes of Panama and of the building of the canal.

Whether one likes to study handstamps and overprinted stamps printed on fairly primitive presses with numerous varieties or appreciates the beauty of modern multicolored engraved stamps printed by a Giori press, all of these are found on Canal Zone stamps. Its stamps can be divided according to five different periods of production.

The first period consists of the hurriedly handstamped stamps of the first issue (Scott Nos. 1-3). The basic stamps had originally been issued by Colombia for the Department of Panama. They were then overprinted by Panama when it obtained its independence and then were finally handstamped for the Canal Zone. These handstamps have been extensively forged; the collector needs considerable experience to tell the good from the bad. An expert certificate should always be obtained in case of doubt.

For a short period from July to December 1904, the Canal Zone used overprinted United States stamps prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Only 7856 copies were sold of the 10¢ value. Needless to say, very fine copies are difficult to find.

The third period of Canal Zone stamps is from December 1904 to June 1924. Panama supplied the basic stamps which at first consisted of its overprinted stamps, but later comprised engraved stamps prepared especially for Panama. These stamps were overprinted CANAL ZONE either in the Canal Zone itself or by the American Bank Note Company in New York.

The fourth period lasted from July 1924 to as late as 1939 and is characterized by the use of United States stamps overprinted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. Extremely small quantities were issued of some of these stamps. For example, only 10,000 copies of Scott No. 81, \$1 flat A, were sold and only 13,533 copies of No. 94, 50¢ sharp A. These quantities and others can be compared with the 61,296 sets sold of the 1930 United States Graf Zeppelin issue. In fact 16 Canal Zone regular issue stamps of this period are rarer than the 1930 Graf Zeppelin issue!

The fifth period partially overlaps the previous one. In this period the Bureau of Engraving and Printing prepared specially engraved designs for the Canal Zone. Many of these issues are both artistic and of historical interest. The 1939 Anniversary issue and some later issues printed by the Giori press are especially beautiful.

The relatively small quantities issued of many of the major Canal Zone numbers is one reason for the steady increase in value of these stamps through the years together with the increasing demand as more United States collectors become interested in Canal Zone stamps indicates an excellent future potential.

The three scarcest Canal Zone stamps in unused condition are Nos. 47, 67, and 15. Four or five sheets (400 or 500 copies) of No. 15 were sold. The other two stamps are certainly scarcer than this in unused condition. It has been estimated that only about 90 unused copies exist of No. 47 and probably less than half of these have gum. Probably about 200 unused copies exist of No. 67, but a majority of these are off-center.

Many collectors find the numerous Canal Zone errors a fascinating study. There has never been any suspicion or evidence that any of these errors after the first issue were produced for collectors. We will never know the complete story of the handstamped first issue, which had to be produced in only a few days. How many of these errors are the natural result of handstamping so many stamps and how many might have been made for philatelists is impossible to determine.

The PANAMA overprint on the stamps of 1904 - 1906 was applied under relatively primitive conditions in a printing shop in Panama.

(Continued on next page)

The number of errors does not seem any more than those that occurred later in overprinting a similar number of stamps in our own Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Various varieties occurred on the PANAMA overprint because of the different type fonts that had to be used to complete the overprint plate particularly on the Third Panama issue (used for Canal Zone Nos. 1, 15, 18, 19).

The Canal Zone overprint was always applied under the closest supervision of either the Canal Zone government or the American Bank Note Company during the period when the basic stamps of Panama were used. The overprint was applied by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington beginning in 1924. During this period the Bureau had extremely high standards of inspection. It was inevitable that some errors were made in overprinting millions of stamps and some of these were not found upon inspection. These are the errors that exist in collections today. It is interesting to note that the number of errors per stamp is not greatly different for the Bureau stamps than for the earlier American Bank Note overprints or those made by the Canal Zone government. It must be assumed that they all did as careful a job as was possible.

The most common type of error that occurred at the Bureau was to place the overprint away from its correct position on the pane. This resulted in pairs one without overprint as well as ZONE CANAL errors from the misplaced overprint. This could also result in ZONE only or CANAL only at the top or bottom edges of the pane. Other errors occurred when there was actually an error on the overprint plate itself. The Bureau inserted an inverted ZONE in one plate, an inverted CANAL in another, and even once had a ZONE CANAL in one position of one plate. Only one pane ever left the Bureau with the overprint inverted; one pane of No. 86 had an inverted overprint on 90 stamps and no overprint on the remaining ten stamps. CANAL ZONE inverted overprints were more common on the Panama issues, probably because the normal CANAL ZONE overprint read either up or down; thus it was more difficult to notice that it was reading in the wrong direction when an error was made.

The study of the errors and varieties of the issues of 1904 - 1906 can be quite fascinating. One can often determine the particular printing of a stamp by a study of the characteristics of the overprint. In addition many stamps can be plated particularly when they are in a block. Some stamps actually had three different overprints or surcharges applied: (1) PANAMA overprint; (2) CANAL ZONE overprint; (3) 8 cts surcharge (Scott Nos. 14, 15, 18, 19, 20). Many single stamps of these issues can be plated from the numerous variations of each of these overprints.

A long and difficult quest is necessary to put together a large collection of Canal Zone errors. The quantities issued vary from several thousand for some of the antique letter varieties of the 1904 - 1906 issue down to those errors where only a single copy is known. Some are relatively easy to obtain such as the ZONE

CANAL error of the 17¢ sharp A, Scott No. 91c (270 copies). There are a considerable number of errors for which 100 or more copies were printed and these are obviously the ones that can usually be found most readily. On the other hand there are also a considerable number of Canal Zone errors where 10 or less copies exist. In some cases errors with only 10 copies known sell for less than a thousand dollars. The prices are extremely low when compared to United States stamps of comparable rarity and indicate considerable appreciation potential for many Canal Zone errors.

Covers often show much of the history and romance of the Canal Zone. There are the nineteenth century "Via Panama" covers as reminders of the days when this short cut was used before the building of the Canal. There are covers with the early Canal Zone issues addressed in Chinese for local delivery. There are covers mailed without any postage from West Indian islands to the Canal Zone during the early construction period. These were charged at double the proper rate for prepaid letters and have Canal Zone postage due stamps. These letters were sent to the Canal workers by their relatives back home who were too poor even to pay the postage on the letters. From the earliest days of the Canal up to the present the maritime covers tell the story of the various ships that have passed through the Canal.

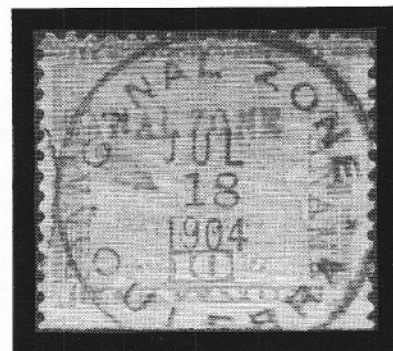
We conclude by mentioning just a few of the other possible areas of collecting which include precancels (all from Cristobal), Christmas seals, and post office seals. The earliest postal stationery was overprinted on Panama envelopes and postal cards. Later United States envelopes were overprinted. There was a brief period in 1924 when envelopes and postal cards were printed in the Canal Zone. In more recent times the Canal Zone has had its own specially designed postal stationery with various surcharges applied to take care of the rate changes. Overprint errors exist on the postal stationery just as on the postage stamps. A number of proofs of stamps issued by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing are known in philatelic hands.

Choose your own specialty and enjoy collecting one country that has never taken advantage of philatelists-Canal Zone.

* Adapted with the help of D. Salz and J. Crumppacker, from an article first published in CZP 38:1, 4-5.



Worth Mentioning



Here is an interesting cancel on Scott No. 3. Note the date of JUL 18 1904 which according to all the literature (Bartell's, Colman, Evans (2 editions), Eckhardt, and Scott) is a day after the stamp was demonitized and replaced by the 2nd series (Sc. Nos. 4-8)

In the *Underworld of Stamps* in an article "Canal Zone Forgeries" by W.J. Eckhardt there is a statement made by J.C. Perry that "a couple of covers were cancelled a few days after the stamp became obsolete." In *Canal Zone First Issue on Cover*, by R.B. Weiler, 1955 (CZSG Handbook No. 3) there is a graph showing cancellations by date for the 1st series on cover: none on July 15, one on July 16, and none on July 17. An ongoing study of 1st series covers still has not produced any additional cancels for these dates.



Scott No. 12 with PANAWA at left (it should be at the right) is due to the Panama overprint being inverted, and thus bar at bottom. How many panes were inverted is anyone's guess but there cannot be many. The PANAWA error exists twice per pane in Positions 24 and 29. This stamp is from Position 24; where is the owner of Position 29? Please come forward and identify yourself!

The block of Sc. No. 94 with sideographer's initials is scarce for two reasons: 1) while collectors saved plate blocks, the initials of the siderographers and plate finishers were not of much importance and very few were saved, particularly the high values and 2) According to Scott there were 13,539 stamps issued of the 50¢, Sc. No. 94, and only upper left and lower left panes received the overprint; thus, there is a maximum of 68 position pieces that can exist with the initials (the lower panes; the upper panes had the plate number).

R.H. Salz

Zoniania by Michael Mills

Reprinted from the
AMERICAN PHILATELIST, July 2000

Zonians, or CZ brats, are people who were either born, raised in, retired from, or left the Panama Canal Zone. Wayne Worthington, a Zonian and AP reader, suggested that Zonians, Canal Zone collectors, and AP readers might appreciate knowing about some Zone resources on the Web. One such resource offering basic philatelic information is a website for the Canal Zone Study Group, a 750 member APS affiliate.

The Canal Zone Study Group at
<http://homc.att.net/~a.bentz/Czsg.htm>

Another site offers an extensive collection of photographs from around the Canal Zone by many different people. It also hosts Wayne Worthington's extensive CZ postcard collection:

Dino's Panama Photo Album at
<http://www.chagres.com/>

Here's an entire directory of everything you'd want to know about the Canal Zone, complete with a real-time web cam. You might also have some fun with the website's cursor:

CZ Brats at
<http://www.czbrats.com/>

The official online presence of the canal's management, featuring history, information, and news is right here. (Ed. Note: Including a basic reading list of the history of the Panama Canal)

The Panama Canal at
<http://www.pancanal.com/>

Halfway down the left-hand side of the Zonian Web site, under "Photos and Slide Shows" is a link to the "Canal Zone Stamps Slide Show." You'll enjoy it. It's a java presentation of the Zone's U.S. issues.

The Zonian at
<http://www.zonian.com/>

El Faro — Panama Canal Authority Publication

A new all Spanish, every other week, informative publication of the Panama Canal Authority *El Faro*, replaced the bilingual Panama Canal Commission *The Panama Canal Spillway* January 14, 2000. The *Spillway* (final issue December 30, 1999) had been published for 37 years and was a frequent source of information on Canal activities for our journal. It was also the source of APO 34011 meters — a standard Pitney-Bowes (Fig. 1) with first class (airmail rate) mailing.

Mailing of *Spillway* was taken over by the Authority in early December 1999. They continued to use up existing stocks of Commission envelopes, but with Panama franking, a Pitney-Bowes meter No. 443 at printed matter rate, (Fig. 2). The first issue of *El Faro* is dated January 14, 2000.

The *Canal Zone Philatelist* wishes *El Faro* every success with the hope they will continue to publish items of interest to our membership.

David J. Leeds



Fig. 1. Air Force Postal Service APO 34001



Fig. 2. PANAMA PB No. 443

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

In a quarter which is normally slow several firms nonetheless presented auctions with good to excellent spreads of Canal Zone material. Depth was also considerable with offerings of scarce items and many obscure varieties.

Added to the names of the auction houses shown below should be Apfelbaum's, which had a sale containing 90+ CZ lots. However, they sent to me a form letter stating the hammer prices could not be supplied "due to technical difficulties."

Here are the results of auctions from the period April 1-June 30, 2000. The price realized (which includes the commission) is given first with the catalogue value from the 2000 Scott's Specialized following in parenthesis.

- 1, OG, H, F-VF \$460 (\$550) Regency
- 1f, vertical pair, PANAMA's reading up on top, down on other, F to VF+ in strip of 3 on VF cover La Boca and Crist. Hs-1, K-1 7/2/04 to Colon \$3300 (\$n/a) Rumsey
- 2, OG, H, F-VF \$155 (\$225) Regency
- 2, used bl. of 4, s.o.n cancel Cristobal 6/28/04, F+ \$715 (\$950) Bennett
- 2 var., colon between right PANAMA and bar, used, barely F, \$413 (\$500) Nutmeg
- 2d, CANAL ZONE diagonal reading down, used, F \$523 (\$700) Nutmeg
- 3, OG, H, F \$265 (\$375) Regency
- 9a, 9b, CANAL antique and ZONE antique, OG, H, XF in bl. 9 w/ 7 normals \$220 (\$189) Nutmeg
- 12d, PANAMA double, used, barely F \$990 (\$850) Nutmeg
- 13 var., spaced A L, dried OG, H, F in margin bl. 4 w/ 3 normals \$219 (\$268) Regency
- 13, on F folded cover w/ #s 9, 10, 12, all F-VF La Boca 1/12/05 Hs-1, K-1 to Panama \$176 (\$134) Rumsey
- 14b, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, NH, VF w/ margin \$605 (\$425) Shreves
- 14b, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, NH, F w/ margin \$495 (\$425) Nutmeg
- 15 var., bar at bottom, CZSG 15.9, OG, H, a nibbed perf., o/w F margin copy \$1320 (\$2750) Rumsey
- 22 var., imperforate top margin, TG (interl. adheres) w/ sm/ paper wrinkles o/w VF in pair w/ normal \$286 (\$n/a) Nutmeg
- 23c, double overprint, TG, XF \$308 (\$500) Nutmeg
- 23 var., C A of CANAL spaced, TG, VF \$165 (\$n/a) Nutmeg
- 32c, cplt. bklt. of 2 panes, CZSG 32c.2, OG, NH, covers minor abrasions and pn, o/w F-XF \$1650 (\$1500) Nutmeg
- 32c, cplt. bklt. of 2 panes, CZSG 32c.4, OG, NH, front cover sm. bend o/w VF \$2645 (\$1500) Alevizos
- 32c, cplt. bklt. of 4 panes, CZSG 32c.5, OG, NH, VF (panes trimmed 1 side by knife) \$6038 (\$3000) Alevizos

- 32c, cplt. bklt. of 4 panes, CZSG 32c.6, covers printed as for 1c booklet, OG, interl. stuck to panes and trimmed 1 side by knife, sm. cover stains o/w F \$3738 (\$n/a) Alevizos
- 32c, cplt. bklt. of 4 panes, CZSG 32c.6, covers printed as for 1c booklet, OG, NH, VF \$3850 (\$n/a) Nutmeg
- 33a, double overprint, also has E of ZONE under L of CANAL var., centered VG-F, no other condition details in auction cat., \$440 (\$375+) Nutmeg
- 39e, inverted center and overprint reading down, OG, H, VF+ \$413 (\$700) Rumsey
- 46, OG, NH, F \$99 (\$160) Rumsey
- 47, OG, H, XF \$3300 (\$3000) Shreves
- 48, OG, NH, VF \$440 (\$550) Shreves
- 55b, horiz. pair, right stamp w/o overprint, OG, H, creases selvage only, o/w barely F w/ rt. and bottom margins \$990 (\$1500) Nutmeg
- 56a, double overprint, OG, NH, F-VF \$413 (\$575) Nutmeg
- 56f, ZONE double, OG, H, F-VF in LL corner margins pair w/ normal \$605 (\$1000) Nutmeg
- 57, OG, H, F-VF \$109 (\$200) Regency
- 57b, horiz. pair, left stamp w/o overprint., dist. OG, H, F \$770 (\$2500) Nutmeg
- 59, sl. dist. OG, H, F \$109 (\$160) Regency
- 60a, CANAL double, TG (nat. gum bend), H, VF in rt. and bottom margins pair w/ normal \$1484 (\$2500) Nutmeg
- 71c, CANAL only, TG, H, F w/ plate # in T margin, in vert. pair w/ 71d ZONE CANAL \$2860 (\$2200) Nutmeg
- 71e, cplt. bklt. of 4 pane, OG, NH, VF \$460 (\$400) Alevizos
- 81, OG, H, F-VF \$115 (\$225) Regency
- 86b, CANAL inverted, TG, H, VG-F in pair w/ normal \$297 (\$954) Nutmeg
- 91c, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, F \$83 (\$175) Rumsey
- 100a, vertical pair, one w/o ovpt., OG, NH, F w/ bottom selvage \$4125 (\$3000) Nutmeg
- 101a, cplt. bklt. of 4 panes, OG, NH, VF \$661 (\$700) Alevizos
- 117b, cplt. bklt. of 2 handmade panes, OG, NH, VF \$322 (\$450) Alevizos
- CO9, OG, H, CTO, F \$201 (\$275) Regency
- J3, OG, H, barely F \$440 (\$850) Rumsey
- J14, dist. OG, H, almost VF \$196 (\$250) Regency
- J15, pl. bl. of 6, TG, HR's, F # 15437-B \$880 (\$900) Nutmeg
- J18a, ZONE ZONE, OG, NH, F in bl. 6 w/ 5 normals \$880 (\$1290) Nutmeg
- J19, pl. bl. of 6, TG, H, F+ to VF #14597-T w/ "F" \$253 (\$140) Nutmeg
- J21 var., POSTAGE DUE at bottom, "1" split, CZSG J21.1, OG, NH, F+ \$231 (\$n/a) Nutmeg
- O8, OG, H, CTO, barely F \$231 (\$625) Rumsey

OX1, cplt. sheet of 8, no gum as issued, VF \$198 (\$375) Bennett

UF1a (UPSS R3), VF w/ VF #39 added, Culebra M.O.B (against postal regs.) cancel 11/29/18 to J. Coveleski in Balboa \$1155 (\$2000) Rumsey

UX5, mint entire, VF \$578 (\$1100) Rumsey

UX6, mint entire, VF \$495 (\$725) Rumsey

Shown below are the full names and addresses of the auctions houses. Please mention CZP should you ask any of them for a catalogue.

George Alevizos
2800 28th St., Suite 323
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Matthew Bennett, Inc.
601 Washington Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21204

Nutmeg Stamp Sales, Inc.
PO Box 4547
Danbury, CT 06813

Regency Stamps, Ltd.
Le Chateau Village, #106
10411 Clayton Road
Saint Louis, MO 63131-2911

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions
11 Tillman Place, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108

Shreve's Philatelic Galleries, Inc.
14131 Midway Rd., Suite 1250
Dallas, TX 75001-9829

Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

Panama: An Historical Novel by Bill Boyd (Sterling Virginia: Capital Books, 1999) ISBN 1-892123-15-0, 196 pages, hardbound, \$21.95.

This "novel" is actually a delivery system for a string of historical facts about the Panama Canal and Panama.

The book is organized chronologically in two parts. Part One centers on a fictional character named George Roosevelt Phillips, who is a nephew of Theodore Roosevelt. He was a Rough Rider, visited Nicaragua and Panama for Teddy Roosevelt, and negotiated with Bunau-Varilla and others. He has adventures and marriages.

George's son, Billy, is the central character of Part Two, which mostly covers from World War II to the present and is about one-fourth of the text. Between them, George and Billy meet most of the political personalities involved in US-Panama relations.

This is a historical novel that is dominated by explanations of historical events — sometimes for many consecutive pages. The book is rather flat with no punch or imaginative turns of events. I doubt that any readers will find it "swashbuckling" as the dust jacket claims.

The book has large type and is double spaced, so it is expensive per word and is an extremely fast read. There are some photographs included, but they are dark and not sharp.

The author's full name is William Young Boyd II. He was born in the Republic of Panama and his family's business is the century-old Boyd Steamship Corporation.

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Introduction

As a first step in developing a Canal Zone Study Group handbook tentatively entitled "Identification of Canal Zone Overprinted Stamps and Detection of Fakes," a sample chapter has been prepared. The intent is to give members the chance to see and comment on the proposed layout and content. With many Canal Zone stamps seemingly very similar in appearance, both those created by overprinting stamps of Panama and those of the U.S., a good guide with illustrations will be a valuable guide to the collector new to Canal Zone stamps. And because fake overprints on nearly all, if not all, overprinted stamps do exist, even on inexpensive items, a guide to what to look for in a good copy and some indicators of fake overprints will be useful.

The Handbook will be organized into chapters on each series of stamps and/or type of overprint. Each chapter will address the following topics:

1. Characteristics of a genuine stamp and overprint
2. Variations in what a genuine stamp and overprint can look like
3. Recognized varieties - listed and unlisted
4. Characteristics of known fakes with examples
5. Known fakes of recognized errors and varieties
6. Other useful information

In providing this information, it will not be the intention to duplicate material covered well in other sources, such as *Canal Zone Stamps*, although material needed for an efficient one-stop location for determining whether a stamp is genuine or a fake will be provided. For example, the text will show important variations in appearance that are legitimate, e.g., 1st & 2nd printings, antique letters and wrong font overprints. But it will not revisit known errors, unless the reason is to illustrate the differences between known fakes of these errors and genuine copies.

Not every chapter will follow explicitly this pattern of defined subsections, in the interest of providing the clearest and most efficient depiction of fakes versus genuine examples, but a discussion of these points will be incorporated in each chapter to the extent they are relevant.

Request for Comments

The goal in presenting this general outline and sample chapters is to generate feedback from members regarding the material they would like included in the Handbook. The author also requests that examples of stamps, thought to be fakes, which are not illustrated in each sample chapter as it appears be sent so that photos or scans of them can be made and potentially included in the final Handbook. Comments can be sent to the Editor or to the author by email at bates@georgetown.edu. Please do not send stamps without first communicating with the author.

Second Series - U.S. Overprinted Stamps - Scott Numbers 4-8

Characteristics of a Genuine Stamp and Overprint

Canal Zone Stamps provides the following information on this series. U.S. Scott Nos. 300, 319, 304, 306, and 307 were overprinted in black by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing by using an electrotpe overprinting plate. The overprint reads CANAL ZONE vertically on the left side, and PANAMA on the right, both in capital letters, as shown in Fig. 1.

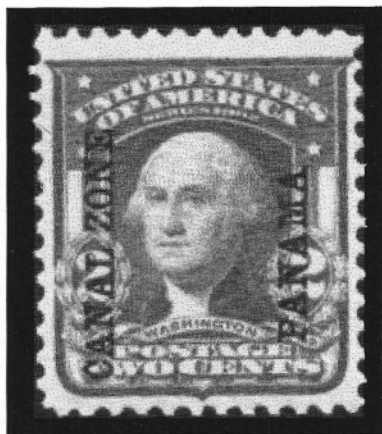


Fig. 1. Scott No. 5 with genuine overprint.

The correct CANAL ZONE overprint measures 16.0 mm with a spacing between the L and Z of 0.9 to 1.0 mm and with letters 1.8 mm high. PANAMA measures 11.2 mm and the normal distance between the CANAL ZONE and PANAMA overprints measures 10.5 mm. Though the existing literature had indicated that there were no known variations in this spacing, the first article in this series reported the discovery of spacing varieties on this series ranging up to 11.5 mm. (See CZP 135: 16-17). The overprint is dark black, with the edges of the letters sharp. The ink may show some squeezing out around the edges of the letters on heavily inked copies, and on less heavily inked copies, though uncommon, show some of the underlying color of the engraved stamp may show through the overprint. Additionally, recalling that the overprint was applied to individual panes that had already been gummed, the raised outline of the impression of the overprint is generally visible on the gum side, particularly on unused stamps with original gum, with the outline of the individual letters fairly well defined. Fakes created by methods other than using a plate do not show the shape of the letters as an impression on the back.

Variations in Genuine Stamps and Overprints

The major difference that can be seen in the overprint of different examples of genuine stamps in this series is the presence of broken letters in the overprint. These are quite normal, and in fact, their presence can help determine that the overprint is genuine. In almost

all cases, the breaks observed are quite sharp, and have generally proven to be more platable than existing references on the topic would imply.



Fig. 2. Scott No. 5 with genuine overprint showing representative broken letters characteristic of genuine overprint.

For example, the block in Fig. 2 from positions 55, 56, 65, 66 in a lower left pane, shows broken letters in the following positions: pos. 55 - C at left; pos. 56 - E at center and 3rd A in PANAMA deformed at bottom; pos. 65 - E filled and 3rd A in PANAMA at lower left; pos. 66 - P and 1st A in PANAMA at top. (The positions on the pane are derived from a photocopy of a full pane provided courtesy of Harry Hagendorf of the Columbian Stamp Co., Inc.)

The second series is unusual among Canal Zone stamps created by overprints in the lack of recognized varieties and errors. Only color variations on the 1 and 2 cent varieties are listed.

Characteristics of Known Fakes - Wrong Stamp Overprinted

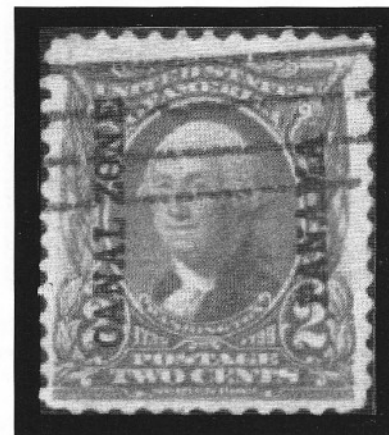


Fig. 3. Canal Zone fake - overprint applied to incorrect U.S. stamp.

(Continued on next page)

The first type of fake to be discussed includes examples where the wrong U.S. stamp is overprinted because a stamp with a different design, perforation gauge, or other distinguishing feature was chosen. Thus the stamp to which the overprint is applied. A prime example of this type is shown in Fig. 3, which has the overprint applied to the original stamp in the series of 1902-03, Scott No. 301, rather than Scott No. 319. U.S. Scott No. 301 was never overprinted for use in the Canal Zone, though overprinted examples of the stamp were used in the Philippines. This fake should not fool any knowledgeable collector.

Right Stamp, Wrong Shade Overprinted

The second type of fake involves examples where the shade of the U.S. stamp was not overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. Color varieties are listed for the underlying U.S. stamps in the second series. For the one cent value, Scott lists the shades as blue green, green, deep green, gray green, and yellow green, but only blue green and green are listed for Canal Zone No. 4. Yet stamps that might seem to be Canal Zone No. 4 are known with a fake overprint applied on one of the shades not overprinted for Canal Zone. The overprinting was done in a very short time period, so only those color varieties in production at the time or on hand could be used. Genuine U.S. stamps in shades not overprinted for the Canal Zone must have faked overprints. Thus the fake is on a stamp with the correct U.S. Scott No., but perhaps not the correct subsection identifier. Examples are hard to illustrate in black and white figures; easy detection is most commonly made by comparison with genuine copies. An example is shown in Fig. 4, in which the shade of the underlying U.S. stamp is yellow green.

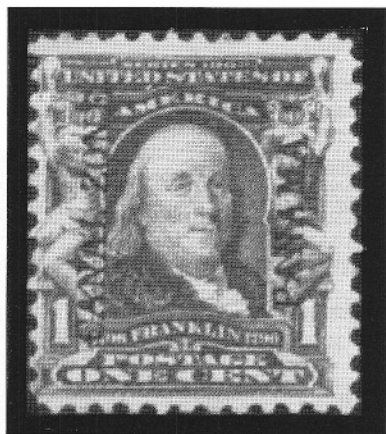


Fig. 4. Canal Zone fake - overprint applied to U.S. stamp of shade that was not overprinted for use in Canal Zone.

Fakes of this type may escape detection unless copies with the correct shades are available for comparison, or the bad overprint is identified by other characteristics. However, for this and some other series of Canal Zone stamps, identification of correct shades in the underlying stamp is an essential step in determining whether an overprint is genuine.

Scott U.S. No. 319 comes in carmine, bright carmine, carmine lake, lake, carmine rose, and scarlet, but only carmine (Scott No. 5) and scarlet (No. 5a) are found on the Canal Zone stamps. The most distinctive incorrect shade on which fake overprints are found is lake. Because black and white photos do not convey shade differences, fakes detectable because the incorrect shade is used will be discussed later in this article in conjunction with other signs of a bad overprint.

Only one shade was overprinted and issued for each of the 5, 8, and 10 cent stamps, though additional shades are known on the U.S. stamps. These differences are not as distinctive as some of the incorrect shades found on fakes of the 1 and 2 cent values in this series.

Poor Overprint Alignment

One characteristic of good examples of stamps from the second series is the quality of the overprint. No examples exist with split or displaced overprint. In fact, copies almost always have the overprint exactly vertical; genuine copies overprinted even slightly at an angle are very unusual, and a stamp in this series with an overprint even slightly off being perfectly vertical is an indicator of a possible fake. An example is shown in Fig. 5, which shows both the overprint tilted to the right, and the overprint on the lower pair out of alignment with the overprint of the upper pair. The shade



Fig. 5. Canal Zone fake - overprint at an angle and badly aligned.

on the stamps in this block also does not match well the shade on good copies of Scott No. 8, though in this case that may be due to aging rather than an incorrect shade originally being used for the fake. Poor overprint alignment or verticality is a strong indicator of a fake and should make the collector suspicious about the stamp.

Used Stamps

A very large fraction of used copies of stamps from the second series turn out to be fakes, perhaps because the potential to upgrade a used U.S. stamp of low value by converting it to one of much higher value from the Canal

Zone has been attractive. A mark-up of more than 100-fold is attainable by adding an overprint to the one and two cent U.S. stamps, and a 50-fold increase is possible for the higher value used stamps.

However, the large percentage of fakes known on used stamps may also be because detecting them is easier than unused stamps. That is because most faked used copies have a cancel of a type that was not used in the Canal Zone, or was not introduced until after Dec. 1904 when the Second Series Canal Zone stamps were no longer valid for postage. If the stamp does not have the 7 bar killer (K-1) most commonly seen on genuine used copies, or the less common but valid handstamp cancel of the type Hs-1 or Hs-1a (See *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone*, 2nd Edition, Lawson P. Entwistle, Canal Zone Study Group Handbook No. 9), it is almost surely no good. These were the only cancellations in use during the 6 month period when the second series stamps were valid for use. While it is not inconceivable that other types of cancellations might have been applied to stamps as they entered the U.S., copies with U.S. type cancels almost always are no good. Wavy lines and duplex cancels were not used by the Canal Zone in 1904. An example of a fake identifiable because of the wrong cancel is shown in Fig. 6. Additional illustrations of fakes with bad cancels will be included in part II of this chapter.

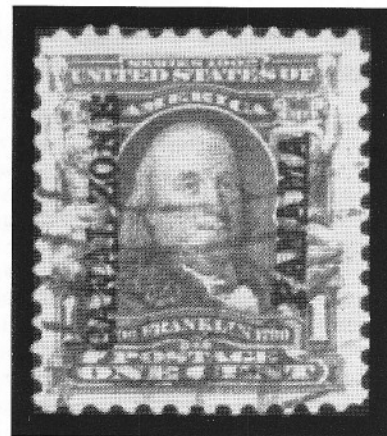


Fig. 6. Canal Zone fake - overprint applied to used U.S. stamp with cancel not used in Canal Zone at the time.

Incorrect Dimensions

The size and/or shape of many bad overprints is sufficiently different from the genuine overprint that they are easily detected with the naked eye. On the second series, examples are mostly those with the letters too big. An example in which the letters are 1.6 mm tall, and the words CANAL ZONE measure 19.5 mm is shown in Fig. 7.

(Continued on next page)

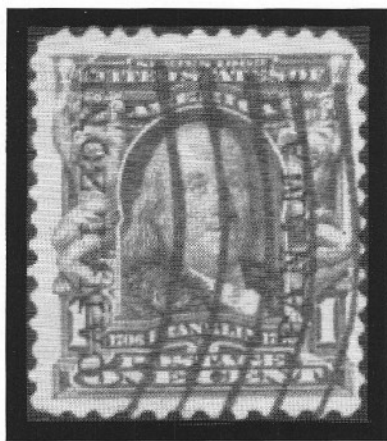


Fig. 7. Canal Zone fake - overprint letters are wrong size.



Fig. 8. Canal Zone fake - wording of overprint incorrect.



Fig. 9. Canal Zone fake - Z in ZONE incorrect shape.

Incorrect Overprint

One example that fits the description of a stamp with a poor overprint is one where the creator failed to know what words go into the correct overprint. An example is shown in Fig. 8 where the overprint applied reads CANAL ZONE downward in two lines, rather than CANAL ZONE on one line at the left, and PANAMA at the right. Such an example should fool no one.

The other examples that fall into this category, however, are the most dangerous fakes. These are stamps that pass an initial inspection, but still turn out to be bad. Sometimes it

is the inking of the overprint; sometimes one or more of the letters just does not look right. Particularly the L in CANAL and Z in ZONE may have a discernibly incorrect appearance in overprints that are bad. (The lower leg of the L may appear stubby on bad copies, and the Z may appear wider than it should be, or the upper right tip as if it has been stretched. Examples are shown in Figs. 9 and 10).

Part II of this article will provide many additional examples of fakes on Second Series stamps.

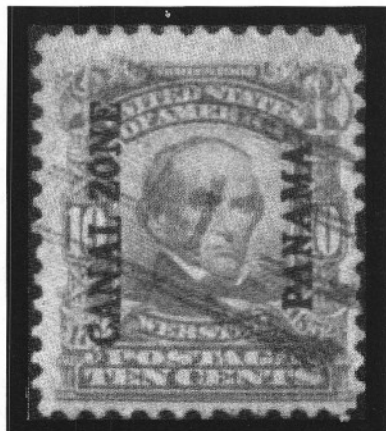


Fig. 10. Canal Zone fake - L in CANAL wrong shape.

APS 2000 Anaheim Show

The 12 members and guests who attended the CZSG meeting in July at World Stamp Expo in Anaheim were a large quantitative improvement over the numbers who usually show up for Los Angeles area CZSG get-togethers. The cavernous meeting room provided by the APS contained 160 chairs but left me with no sense of guilt that our group could not have filled up the first two rows.

Moderated by David Leeds and with members from as far away as Japan and Norway present, a good time was had by all. The main speakers' topics included congratulations to Bob Karrer on the 25th anniversary of the founding of his Isthmian Collectors Club, acquiring new members for CZSG, and the influence of the Internet upon stamp collecting.

An outstanding show n' tell ensued, which included viewing of the Plate Proofs for the Panamanian Lindbergh issues. Also exhibited were wooden handles for obliterators used to cancel Canal Zone stamps, a number of the engraved face plates of steel duplexes, and a couple of metal crimping devices used to affix security seals to the exterior of bags of mail.

Jim Crumpacker



CZSG members at APS 2000 Anaheim Show meeting, (left to right): Takahiro Ohta (Japan), Susan Tucker (CA), Jim Crumpacker (NV), Richard Spielberg (CA), Niki Oquist (TN), David Zemer (Norway), David Leeds (CA).

CZSG SESCAL Meeting

An interesting group of Canal Zone postal marking devices has been recovered. These will be on display, with samples, at the October 7, 2000 SESCAL meeting.

Winner

Paul Ammons exhibit "Canal Zone Second Air Mail Series" won a vermeil at NAPEX 2000, June 2-4 held at the Hilton Hotel at Tyson Corners, McLean, VA.

CZ 16b variety: workup before 1 of 1 ct.

By: Howard Ballou

There are definitely some indirect hidden pleasures in collecting Canal Zone stamps. Of course, we'll all agree that this is one of the most interesting areas of Philately, which now has a beginning, and an end and fortunately a limited number of issues. This makes it entirely feasible to obtain a "complete" collection. CZ has a very limited number of issues with an extremely interesting array of errors, varieties and other oddities. This collection is at the same time monetarily accessible (over time) and leaves plenty of room for specialization.

If you are like me, I go through spurts of collecting. I'll get involved in a particular issue and go, go, go, buy, buy, buy and then comes the dreaded: "well goes dry" period, or work begins to take more of my disposable time and everything is put on hold. Well, aren't we fortunate!!! There are so many errors, varieties, printings, alignment varieties, color varieties, etc., etc., etc., that we can literally spend hours with a 10x - 30x magnifying glass looking through our holdings for these imperfections. This is especially true for the period prior to 1924.

Last year I was confronted by one of those "well runs dry" episodes just after having gotten involved with purchases of the 16 - 17b series. Armed with the "C. Z. bible" *Canal Zone Stamps* and my trusty magnifying glass, I began looking at details. Among a group of small blocks and other interesting varieties I purchased from Chris of C&H Stamps comes the following interesting variety. At the time of this writing, I know of only 3 specimens of position 49 with a **workup before 1 of 1ct.** Hopefully, more will come forward!

This is a preliminary group of observations about this study of 16b's, **positions 49 - 50 and 99 - 100.** It is not meant to be the final word, but rather a call for additional information from the readership to complete the understanding of the progression of degrading of the overprint forms involved in the 16b printing. We are all familiar with the fact that the top half of the sheets (top 50 stamps - rows 1 through 5) of this series were printed then the overprint plate repaired prior to printing the bottom half (rows - 6 through 10). I will refer you to Chapter 5, pages 64 - 70 of the *Canal Zone Stamps* for a more comprehensive understanding of this series and will limit this discussion to the observations I have made relating to positions 49 - 50 and 99 - 100.

I was not able to examine a specimen of 16b.3, (position 50, 13mm long CANAL). I would imagine that when the spaced C-A was repaired on position 50, the workup on position 49 was cleaned up. Only sufficient observations will bear this out. It is also unknown if the overprint form was reworked between the upper half and lower half printings, i.e. after the 13mm correction was made on the upper half.



Fig. 1. CZ 16b Positions 49 & 50

Position 49

1. E in ZONE dropped.
2. P A spaced in right Panama.
3. dot after ct is slightly dropped.
4. Deformed M in right Panama.

Position 50

1. C A spaced in CANAL (C moved to left & ANAL moved to right)
2. Top bar curving down from left to right.
3. 1 dropped in relation to ct. (not aligned).
4. Right Panama with strong slant.
5. Deformed third A in left Panama (cut off top).



Fig. 2. CZ 16b Positions 49 & 50 with workup before 1 of 1ct.

Position 49

Same as in Fig. 1 plus workup before 1 of 1ct. (1 slightly tilted to left).

Position 50

Same as in Fig. 1.

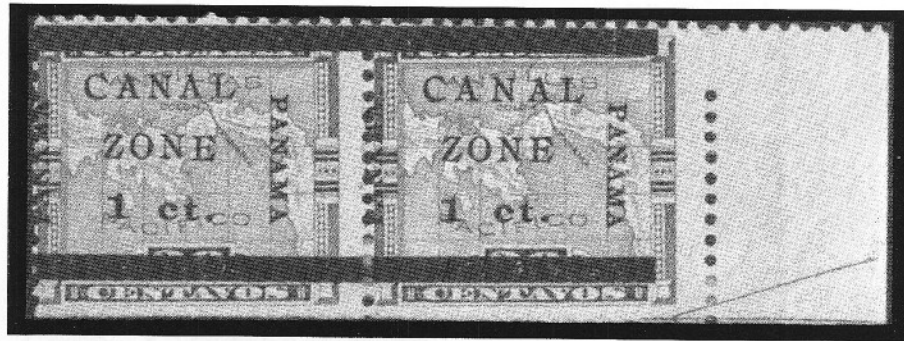


Fig. 3. CZ 16b Positions 99 & 100

Position 99

- A. Not repaired:
 1. E in ZONE dropped.
 2. dot after ct is slightly dropped.
- B. Repaired:
 1. Deformed M in right Panama corrected.
 2. P A in right Panama, no longer spaced.

Position 100

- A. Not repaired:
 1. Third A in left Panama deformed (cut off top).
- B. Repaired:
 1. CANAL - "13 mm" - C pulled to right but ANAL left where it was.
 2. 1 and ct. aligned.
 3. Top bar straightened, removing slant from right Panama.

APS STAMPSHOW 2000 (Providence RI)

By Alan P. Bentz

Thirteen people attended a joint meeting of the Canal Zone Study Group and COPAPHIL at STAMPSHOW 2000 on 25 August 2000. Attendees were: Alan Bentz, George McHugh, David J. Leeds, Gary B. Weiss, David J. Smith, Robert Hubsmith, Clifford Morey, Frank Bodnar, Larry Weinstock, Harold Petoskey, Richard F. Potter, and Bob Tortolani (plus one who failed to sign in). Of these, four are also COPAPHIL members.

The speaker for the meeting was Ray Ireson who presented highlights of his fantastic exhibit *The Panama Canal Story*, which was in the World Series of Philately 2000. He gave a comprehensive retrospective history of the Isthmus from pre-Colombian days to the present. The story was told through the Colombian era, Panama's independence, the French canal effort, and the U.S. construction of the canal to the abolishment of the Zone by the new treaty of 1979. The story, told with a great sense of humor, was packed with bits of history unknown to many of us that were born and/or grew up there. He discussed the serendipity involved in acquiring some of the rarer pieces in the exhibit.

It was agreed that Ireson's exhibit should be published by the CZSG. If in hard copy form, it was proposed that it should be done in color. Another suggestion was that it be put on a CD. The latter is being explored as a possibility. If deemed feasible, it should be done after an exhibition in Spain, before it goes out to other shows in Europe.

George Tarallo (formerly with H.E. Harris) presented a high quality photograph of an entire sheet of the "bridgeless" stamps (Scott 157a), to the CZSG.

Although physically absent, Bob Karrer's presence was felt and acknowledged, based on points he had raised that had escaped the attention of many of us but had been incorporated by Ray in the exhibit. Bob Karrer learned that very day that Bill Uhls agreed to cooperate with the second edition of the Naval Postmark Handbook.

George McHugh brought along his latest edition of the Canal Zone postage stamp album. It has a lot of detailed overprints and fonts replicating the actual stamps. George has spaces



STAMPSHOW 2000 David Leeds accepting the photo of the complete sheet of "bridgeless" stamps from George McHugh. Left to right: Back row: Alan Bentz, Ray Ireson and Gary Weiss. Front row: David Leeds, George McHugh.

for all of the identifiable issues and varieties, e.g., CZSG# 12.A thru 12.G, with *unused* on the (right side) front page, *used* on the (left side) next page and with space for variants on the (right side) next page(s). David Leeds recommended options with and without a background grid. Gary Weiss said since everyone has different variants, the user would need to be able to customize those pages. The options are to publish regular issue color pages, with blank variant pages for each collector to customize; in loose-leaf format (so they may be updated), or as a CD. The latter would allow flexibility, but would require the user to have compatible software. George McHugh has selected Microsoft Publisher 2000 as the most prevalent Windows-based software available to most collectors at around \$100. Mac users would need someone to convert the data.

David Leeds recently acquired some circular date stamps (informational cancelers), for safe-keeping, and handed out a sheet of postal markings produced by the devices. They included Balboa, Cristobal, Albrook and Howard Air Force Bases, Fort Amador, Fort Gulick, Fort Davis (and Ft Davis with "killer"), Rodman, Quarry Heights, and Army Postal Service (APO Mia 34042). We discussed destroying them and placing the defaced devices in a library or museum.

Alan Bentz announced that the Northeast Federation of Stamp Clubs will feature Canal Zone as one of its two main themes at STAMPSHOW 2002 in Boxborough, MA. That gives us about 20 months to solicit Canal Zone exhibits, and have time for exhibitors to prepare them.

From Other Journals:

The July 15th, 2000 issue of *First Days*, the journal of the American First Day Collecting Society, has an article by CZSG member Gary Weiss entitled: "Canal Zone Sc. CO3 Earliest Use." The article describes the use of a CZ CO3 paying postage due tied by a March 31, 1941 cancel. The illustrated cover documents the Earliest Known Usage of CO3. No pre - April 8, 1941 usages of the other values (air mail or ordinary) of the CZ Official stamps have been reported.

Mt. Hope Printing Plant Closes

Jeanne Stough sends a note from June 16-July 6, 2000 *The Panama News* that The Panama Canal Authority is going to close its print shop in September. This was the Mt. Hope, then La Boca print shop where many CZ stamps and other philatelic items were made. Jim Corrigan was the last printmaster there, he retired June 20, 1998.

Before the Canal reverted to Panama, US government regulations required printing to be done in-house. Now that the rule no longer applies, it has been decided it would be cheaper to use private contractors for printing needs.

Congratulations to George Brett

George Brett CZSG #0001 (Honorary Member) was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the United States Stamp Society (formally the Bureau Issues Association) on June 2, 2000. Brett (the society's chairman emeritus) is the only person to be inducted into the USSS Hall of Fame while still alive.

Brett is unquestionably the greatest living authority on U.S. stamp production. He has made numerous contributions to our understanding of the production of U.S. overprinted CZ Stamps.

Albrook Field Renamed "Gelabert"

Local maps showing realignment of streets opposite the old Balboa railroad station, site since about 1930 of **Albrook Field** now show **Aeropuerto Marcos A Gelabert**.

Captain Gelabert, a former U.S. Air Corp officer, is an important figure in Panama aviation history. He founded *Compañía de Transportes Aéreos Gelabert* in 1931 with service to 14 domestic points. Panama Scott C15 was issued November 28, 1931 to commemorate the start of the service. Express mail was available thrice weekly between Panama City and David. Only two covers are known to this Ex-Editor, both bearing a Gelabert label on the reverse and an uncancelled 2c Coat of Arms acknowledging Panama's postal service.

Reference: *El Faro del Canal de Panamá*, April 7, 2000; F.T.G. Davies, *Airlines of Latin America since 1919*, 1984.

David J. Leeds

Make the Dirt Fly!

The Smithsonian Libraries National Museum of American History has a small special exhibit on the Panama Canal, complete with an 8-page brochure, "Make the Dirt Fly!". So, the next time you are in Washington stop by.

Thanks are due Cheryl Ganz for the information.

Author seeking information for forthcoming plate number book.

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